16. डा० शेददम नरसिम्हा
निदेशक राष्ट्रीय, उच्च अध्यन संस्थान
17. डा० एम० रंगाराजन,
निदेशक उपग्रह संचार
18. निदेशक (संचार एवं अनुसंधान), प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय
19. श्री रतन टाटा,
अध्यक्ष, टाटा इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड,
20. लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल प्रकाश गोकरन, अति विशिष्ट सेवा मंडल
मुख्य सिंगनल अफसर, रक्षा मंत्रालय।

Buying Back of Shares by MTNL

2210. SHRI RAGHAVJI:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Telecommunications is opposed to the proposal that MTNL should utilize its surplus funds of about Rs. 1000 crores in buying back Government shares;

(b) if so, what are the reasons advanced therefor; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) Deptt. of Telecom has not issued any directive to MTNL regarding buy back Govt. shares.

After taking into account various factors like treatment to be meted to the buy back amount in the hands of shareholders, applicability of stamp duty on the buy back shares and other reasons, the MTNL has decided to drop the proposal of buy back of shares.

Telephone Advisory Committee in Kerala

2211. SHRI M. J. VARKEY MATTATHIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms for reconstitution of Telephone Advosory Committee in various S.S.Is of Kerala;

(b) whether it was on political basis; and

(c) the criteria by which the members were selected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) A TAC is constituted normally for a period of two years for each telecom circle/telecom district and for such Secondary Switching Areas (SSAs) which are headed by an officer of the rank of Telecom District Manager and above.

This norm has been applied for re-constitution of TACs in Kerala.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The members in the TACs in Kerala were nominated in accordance with the prescribed rulings and taking into account the recommendations requests received from various sources.

Release of Telephone Connections to the Villagers of Habibpur Darin

2212. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of persons residing in village Habibpur/Habibpur Darin, District Gautam Budh Nagar (NOIDA) have applied for fresh telephone connections in the last two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that they have not been allotted any telephone connections while a number of M.Ps. have written letters to the G.M. for priority basis allotment;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and by when the telephone connections would be alloted to them; and

(d) the reasons for delay and what action has been taken by Government/ being taken so that they get the telephone connections easily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Twenty five (25) persons have applied for telephones at village Habibpur/Habibpur Darin, District Gautam Budh Nagar (NOIDA) during the last two years.

(b) to (d) 13 telephone have already been provided. Cable laying work is in progress and remaining 12 telephones (mostly applied during 1998) are expected to be provided within the next two months.

Withdrawal of Preferential Offer to Tatas by ACC

2213. SHRI JANARDKHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to opposition by the Financial Institutions ACC has withdrawn preferential offer to Tatas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether shareholders of ACC have opposed such a move and condemned IDBI in this regard; if so, the reasons advanced by shareholders in this regard; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that ACC had proposed making a rights issue of Rs. 189 crore and preferential issue of naked warrants aggregating Rs. 99 crore to Tatas. Institutions had advised the company to arise the entire amount through rights issue, if necessary, so that there was no discrimination against any shareholders. The proposal pertaining to preferential allotment of warrants to Tatas was withdrawn at the extra ordinary General Meeting (EGM).

Pensionary Terminal Benefits Instrumentalities of Government

2214. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a policy of Government not to extend pensionary terminal benefits to Instrumentalities of Government of India;

(b) if so, the reasons and justification thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons; for not accepting extension of these benefits to the teachers of Navodaya Vidyalayas?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Regular pensionary benefits are costlier than the Contributory Provident Fund Scheme which generally exists in organisations which receive grants-in-aid from the Central Government. Payment of pension is a recurring liability as compared to the one-time settlement under the Constributory providedat Fund Scheme. For these reasons Government are not generally in favour of extension of pensionary to autonomous organisations, etc. However such organisations can introduce suitable annuity schemes for their employees.